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Somerset County Council.

THE COUNTY EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Annual Report

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER,

For the Year 1915.

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County Medical Officer of Health,
School Medical Officer.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee of the Somerset County Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Seventh Annual Report as School Medical Officer.

As set out in the Report, the War has affected the Staff considerably, but several of the alterations did not take place until late in the year. The work in connection with mentally defective children had to be abandoned, but apart from this it has been possible to maintain the work during 1915 nearly unimpaired. The figures show the large volume of work done in spite of the adverse conditions. This, I think, is a matter for congratulation, and although for 1916 it will not be practicable to show such good results, it is certainly satisfactory to have been able to carry on the work to the extent shown during 17 months of war.

I have considerably reduced the volume of the report, while at the same time retaining all figures and tables which are required either as a measure of what has been done, or as likely to be of value as a guide for future work.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM G. SAVAGE.

Health Department,
Somerset County Council,
February, 1916.

Part I.

ORGANISATION, EXTENT AND SCOPE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The number of Elementary Schools is 493 with 583 departments.

	Urban.	Rural.	Total.
Council Schools ...	24	103	127
Voluntary Schools ...	37	329	366
Total	61	432	493

The average attendance during the year ending 31st March, 1915, was 46,159.

STAFF.

Owing to the War the Staff has been further altered and the work affected during the year.

Dr. Moore, who was carrying out the examination of mentally deficient children, left for military service in February. His post was not filled up, and the further classification and provision for treatment for these children has had to be postponed. Dr. Stansfield joined the Army in April and Dr. Parker at the end of the year. Dr. Carter, temporary School Medical Inspector in place of Dr. Martin, left the service of the Committee at the end of November. These posts have not been filled up. Dr. Bendle, the County School Oculist, died April 13th. Dr. Bendle had been School Oculist since January, 1909, and his untimely death is a great loss to Medical Inspection work in the County. His ability, carefulness and devotion to his work made him a most valuable Officer. Dr. Boreham was appointed School Oculist and commenced his duties June 1st.

The only whole time School Nurse (Miss Weeks) left the service of the County for Military nursing in June, while at the end of the year the four half time School Nurses were transferred to branches of Health work unconnected with School work.

The technical Staff at the end of the year consisted of Dr. Boreham, Mr. Goddard (the School Dentist), and myself. The Medical Inspection work for 1916 will, as a temporary measure, be carried out by part time Inspectors paid by fee, while the work of the School Nurses will be discontinued.

The Clerical Staff of the Health Department has been reduced by one clerk.

EXTENT AND SCOPE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The number of visits paid to Schools for the purpose of conducting routine inspections during the year was 950. Of these, 144 were paid by the part-time Inspectors and 806 by the full-time officers. The number of children inspected by the former was 3,144 or 21·8 inspections per School session of rather under 2½ hours; and by the latter, 13,246 or 16·4 inspections per session. The average number of inspections per session by all Inspectors was 17·3.

The number of children inspected exclusive of re-inspections, classified for sex and certain selected ages is as follows:—

Age ...	*3—7*	*7—8 & 9—12*	*8—9*	*12 & over.*	*All Ages.*
Boys ...	2153	537	1499	1733	5922
Girls ...	2139	580	1563	1700	5982
Total ...	4292	1117	3062	3433	11904

The number of inspections in each district and under the different groups examined is shown in Table I. (at end of report). The number of children re-inspected during the year was 4,486, compared with 5250 in the previous year. This is exclusive of the cases referred to the School Oculist.

Special visits to schools to follow up individual cases, investigate outbreaks of infectious diseases, such as impetigo or ringworm, were paid in a large number of cases. Dr. Parker paid 46, Dr. Stansfield 19 such special visits, and Dr. Carter 52. 41 per cent. of the parents attended the inspections.

The above facts show that in spite of the disorganization of staff it was found possible to carry out most of the medical inspection work. Visits for routine inspection to a number of the smaller schools had to be abandoned, but those not visited for routine inspection during the year only amounted to 6 with an average attendance above 60, and 65 with one below 60. A number of these smaller schools were visited for re-inspections.

Part II.

THE FACTS DISCLOSED BY MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The figures for 1915 are set out in Table II. They are very similar to those recorded in previous years and only a few require special comment.

A good many more cases of suspected tuberculosis were referred to the tuberculosis officers. During the year, 145 cases of tuberculosis of the lungs or suspected tuberculosis were recorded amongst the routine inspections, while there were 11 cases and 78 suspected cases amongst those specially presented. 128 cases of tuberculosis of other parts of the body were recorded, chiefly of glands, bones and joints. Of the cases referred to the tuberculosis officers, 20·5 per cent. were found to be definite cases and a further 25·5 per cent. suspicious cases of tuberculosis.

VISION DEFECTS.

The figures for the routine cases are given in Table II. "Slight defects" includes visual acuity of $\frac{6}{9}$ to $\frac{6}{18}$ and "Very defective" any greater defect.

During the year 1,250 cases were examined by the Oculist, 530 being re-examinations. In 879 of the new cases errors of refraction were present. The nature of the defects found are given in the following table:—

ERRORS OF REFRACTION.	BOYS.				GIRLS.				Totals.
	Under 7.	8.	12 to 14.	Other Ages.	Under 7.	8.	12 to 14.	Other Ages.	
Simple Hypermetropia	34	23	23	52	26	33	39	40	270
Simple Hypermetropic Astigmatism ...	5	8	9	19	4	16	18	22	101
Compound Hypermetropic Astigmatism	4	20	23	21	10	30	31	29	168
Simple Myopia	1	5	13	9	1	8	14	11	62
Simple Myopic Astigmatism ...	—	4	2	4	—	1	5	4	20
Compound Myopic Astigmatism ...	1	5	6	14	1	7	4	14	52
Mixed Astigmatism	2	6	2	8	4	14	8	11	55
Anisometropia	5	17	17	26	7	31	22	26	151
Total	52	88	95	153	53	140	141	157	879
Cases where Refraction could not be estimated on account of disease ...	1	2	1	2	—	3	1	1	11
Re-examination cases	14	24	53	140	17	19	71	140	478
Cases without Error of Refraction ...	17				13				30

		Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Disorders of Mobility.	Convergent Strabismus	62	41	103
	Alternating Strabismus (mainly convergent)	6	6	12
	Divergent Strabismus	2	6	8
	Nystagmus	4	2	6
	Heterophoria	—	4	4
Diseases of the Eye.	Of Conjunctiva	20	18	38
	,, Cornea and Sclerotic	9	12	21
	,, Iris and Ciliary body	—	4	4
	,, Lens	7	6	13
	,, Vitreous	1	—	1
	,, Choroid and Retina	2	3	5
	,, Optic Nerve	1	1	2
Diseases of Adnexa of the Eye.	Of Eyelids	30	28	58
	,, Lachrymal apparatus	—	1	1
Injuries of Eye		1	1	2
Congenital Disorders of the Eye		8	4	12
Headaches, and other reflex nerve symptoms associated with visual defects		69	115	184
Cases considered unsuitable for instruction in Elementary Schools		2	—	2

The Medical Inspection work in the Secondary Schools was discontinued, and only one school visited during the year.

During the year 150 Pupil Teachers, Bursars, Teacher Candidate Scholars, and School of Housewifery Candidates, were medically examined by the County Staff, and one of these was specially examined by the County School Oculist.

Part III.

MEDICAL TREATMENT AND FOLLOWING UP.

District Education Sub-Committees.

The arrangements for following up cases have not undergone any material alteration. The majority of the case-sheets are returned filled up in a satisfactory manner, but in a few parishes difficulties are experienced in obtaining care visitors who will follow up the cases.

During the year 1,553 cases were referred to District Education Sub-Committees. The defects from which these children suffered is shown in the following table:—

CASES REPORTED TO DISTRICT EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEES AS IN NEED OF TREATMENT.

	DISEASE OR DEFECT.	Boys.	Girls.
SKIN.	Impetigo	11	10
	Scabies	2	2
	Ringworm (head)	115	92
	,, (body)	5	4
	Other skin diseases	6	2
EYE.	External eye diseases ...	22	17
EYES.	Defective vision (spectacles not obtained)	40	45
EARS.	Present ear discharge ...	28	23
	Recent	8	12
	Hearing	68	57
THROAT.	Slight adenoids	89	73
	Severe adenoids	93	64
	Enlarged tonsils	170	162
TEETH.	Marked caries (referred to dentist)	110	122
HEART.	Organic disease	4	9
	Anæmia	33	60
	Irregularity	4	4
LUNGS.	Tuberculosis	13	20
	Possible tuberculosis	6	12
	Bronchitis	1	6
	Other defects	—	2
GLANDS.	Enlarged	41	16
	Tubercular	5	4
NERVOUS DISEASES.	Paralysis.	2	—
	Epilepsy	6	2
	Chorea	—	2
	Nervous debility	1	—
	Headaches	—	6
	Other conditions	6	4
Rickets		2	4
Rupture		18	6
Deformities		3	6
Insufficient food		6	2
,, clothing		1	—
Delicate		1	2
Goitre		5	25
Lateral curvature of spine		1	14
Spinal curvature		4	5
Other conditions		67	44
	Totals ...	997	940

Work of District Nurses.

Cases are also followed up by District Nurses. Arrangements have been made with 105 Nursing Associations, a decrease of 4 during the year. Nearly all of these are affiliated to the County Nursing Association. The Associations are irregularly distributed and deal with only some of the schools, inspections in 278 Schools being attended by district nurses. During 1915, 368 inspections were attended by district nurses, and 923 cases were referred to them for home visits. Their reports state that 1423 home visits were paid to these cases.

Their reports upon the 923 cases referred to them for home visits state that in 331 cases (36 per cent.) treatment had been obtained; in 348 cases (38 per cent.) treatment would probably be obtained; 64 cases (7 per cent.) were under treatment by the nurse; in 51 cases (6 per cent.) no treatment was obtained or likely to be obtained; in 100 cases (10 per cent.) no treatment was required, the cases being reported for observation only, and in the remaining 29 cases (3 per cent.) visits had yet to be made at the time the reports were received.

Results obtained in regard to the treatment of individual children.

This information is derived from several sources, the most important and extensive being from the case sheets (Form M.I.2.) sent to the District Education Sub-Committees. The following table gives particulars of cases reported to District Committees during the latter half of 1914 and the first half of 1915. It therefore includes cases reported for a period of a year.

In 155 cases (8 per cent.) the returns were not obtainable, although several applications were made. In the remaining 92 per cent. of cases returns are available and have been analysed. Under "nothing done" is included those cases in which the parents promise to obtain treatment.

District Education Sub-Committees. After-Treatment Cases.

Condition.	No. of cases referred.	No. of returns received.	Case Sheets not returned.	Analysis of Returns received.				Left school or district.
				Satis-factory.	Partially satis-factory.	Nothing done.	No treat-ment recom-mended.	
Tonsils and adenoids ...	556	502	54	113	134	180	—	75
Ear discharge ...	119	111	8	75	11	18	—	7
Ringworm ...	211	199	12	120	75	1	—	3
External eye disease ...	42	41	1	29	6	3	—	3
Anæmia & heart conditions	88	75	13	30	35	5	—	5
Defective teeth ...	256	239	17	60	5	152	—	22
Lung conditions ...	81	69	12	5	58	2	—	4
Other conditions ...	529	491	38	242	75	76	55	43
Totals ...	1882	1727	155	674	399	437	55	162

District Education Sub-Committees. After-Treatment Cases.

Condition.	No. of cases referred.	PERCENTAGES.						
		No. of returns received.	Case Sheets not returned.	Analysis of Returns received.				Left school or district.
				Satisfactory.	Partially satisfactory.	Nothing done.	No treatment recommended.	
Tonsils and adenoids ...	556	91	9	22	26	37	—	15
Ear discharge ...	119	93	7	68	10	16	—	6
Ringworm ...	211	94	6	60	38	—	—	2
External eye disease ...	42	98	2	71	15	7	—	7
Anæmia & heart conditions	88	85	15	41	47	6	—	6
Defective teeth ...	256	94	6	25	3	63	—	9
Lung conditions ...	81	85	15	7	84	3	—	6
Other conditions ...	529	93	7	50	15	15	11	9
Totals ...	1882	92	8	39	23	25	3	10

The tables show that in 65 per cent. of the cases for which information is available, and which were referred to Sub-Committees, the results obtained were satisfactory or partially satisfactory, 10 per cent. had left school without treatment being obtained, while in 25 per cent. nothing had been done. These results are very similar to those of previous years.

These tables only show that part of the after care work which is dealt with through District Education Committees. The work of the nature of treatment in connection with vision defects, tuberculosis cases, defective teeth, cleansing of verminous children, mentally defective children, and ringworm cases is dealt with separately below.

In addition, certain minor forms of treatment are undertaken through the Teachers. For example, during the year 950 cases of slight degrees of nasal obstruction, probably due to adenoids, but not marked cases, were reported from routine inspections. These cases are prescribed breathing exercises at the school.

Directions as to treatment were given to Parents in 2232 cases (21 per cent.), and to Teachers in 749 cases (viz., 7 per cent.)

A number of children from the Elementary Schools of Weston-super-Mare and the neighbourhood attended at the Health Department on Saturday mornings for examination by Dr. Parker as to their fitness for school attendance, while some cases of ringworm attended for treatment.

The number of attendances so made during 1915 were as follows:—

Ringworm, 311; Other skin diseases, 13; Throat and ear diseases, 4; Other conditions, 26.

VISION AND EYE DEFECTS.

The cases of defective vision include cases cf slight defects which require no special treatment and cases of decided impairment of vision or with definite symptoms of eye strain, which are referred to the School Oculist. During 1915 the School Oculist examined 720 cases and prescribed glasses in 557 cases; particulars of these cases are given on page 5.

He visits the different eye centres in the county and examines there the individual children referred to him by the County School Staff. At the end of the year the number of eye centres in use in the county was 33 the same as last year. 85 per cent. of the children summoned to attend at the different eye centres attended. Of the remaining 15 per cent., the majority attended on being again sent a notice to attend.

During the year the 3/6 charged for the spectacles was received from 676 of the parents, while in 78 cases the cost, or part of the cost, was provided out of County funds. The amount paid towards the provision of spectacles by the County Education Committee during the year ending December, 31st, 1915, was £11. 15s. 0d.

During the year, 758 new pairs of spectacles were supplied, while 448 pairs previously ordered were repaired.

Children provided with spectacles are re-examined by the Medical Inspectors at their next visit to see that the spectacles fit and have not been bent out of shape. If necessary in special cases, the children are referred back to Dr. Boreham.

TREATMENT OF DEFECTIVE TEETH.

The separate "Inspection and Treatment" Scheme described in my Report for last year was in force throughout the year. The figures include the work done in the Axbridge and Long Ashton districts during November and December, 1914, but do not include the figures for these areas when re-examined during 1915. They correspond therefore to a year's work, and this arrangement is preferable since all the results are comparable, including as they do all the first visits of inspection paid to the schools, and no re-visits a year later.

For future work and regulations as to the amount of time required to deal with children's teeth, it is of importance to have figures available as to the actual amount of dental caries at the selected ages. Such data is furnished in the following table:—

DENTAL INSPECTION RESULTS. PERMANENT DENTITION ONLY.

DISTRICT.	Number inspected at age groups.			No teeth erupted.			Children classified according to number of carious teeth.																		Percentage prevalence of caries at ages	
							0			1			2			3			4			Over 4.				
	6	7	8	6	7	8	6	7	8	6	7	8	6	7	8	6	7	8	6	7	8	6	7	8	6	7
Axbridge Rural	332	286	46	116	20	1	126	113	9	37	44	5	20	53	13	11	28	8	22	28	10	...	...	...	27·1	53·4
Burnham and Highbridge ...	66	71	12	22	3	1	25	34	2	9	12	1	6	15	2	3	1	3	1	5	3	...	1	...	28·7	47·8
Long Ashton	246	234	28	102	8	...	81	111	7	29	39	2	18	27	10	6	20	4	10	29	5	...	...	...	25·6	49·1
Keynsham	102	128	24	48	9	...	25	41	6	9	28	3	10	25	2	2	6	2	8	19	11	...	...	...	28·4	60·9
Bath Rural	207	147	13	53	1	...	72	44	1	37	38	4	17	24	4	14	11	2	14	28	2	...	1	...	39·6	69·3
Clutton	286	251	3	84	8	...	87	75	1	42	42	...	37	50	1	14	31	1	22	44	...	...	1	...	40·2	66·9
Midsomer Norton & Radstock	228	234	19	61	8	...	88	94	1	33	46	5	26	40	5	8	18	5	12	28	3	...	...	...	34·6	56·4
Frome Rural	167	158	18	46	8	...	62	57	2	17	32	4	20	23	3	9	10	2	13	27	7	...	1	...	35·3	58·8
,, Urban	154	169	18	51	5	...	52	59	2	14	17	5	15	28	4	6	17	4	16	42	2	...	1	1	33·1	62·1
Williton	152	141	14	49	7	...	53	32	1	13	23	2	17	32	2	8	12	2	12	34	6	...	1	1	32·8	72·3
Minehead and Watchet ...	65	71	9	15	1	...	21	12	1	5	11	3	9	11	1	5	11	1	10	25	3	...	...	...	44·6	81·6
Dulverton	71	59	9	22	...	...	24	13	2	10	5	...	7	9	3	3	9	2	5	23	2	...	...	...	35·2	77·9
Wellington Rural	131	114	12	40	2	...	50	30	2	9	18	...	18	23	2	8	11	1	6	30	7	...	...	...	31·2	71·9
Bridgwater Rural	64	81	6	23	4	1	21	29	...	4	17	1	7	10	3	3	10	1	6	11	...	...	...	...	31·2	59.2
Totals	2271	2144	231	732	84	3	787	744	37	268	372	35	227	370	55	100	195	38	157	373	61	...	6	2	33·1	61·3

This table shows that one-third (33·1 per cent.) of the 6 year old children had diseased permanent teeth, while this proportion had nearly doubled (61·3 per cent.) for the 7 year old children. These figures emphasize the great importance of starting dental treatment as soon as the permanent teeth are erupted.

The figures as to the extent of the dental caries for ages 6 and 7 yield the following percentages:—

	All the children examined.		Children with permanent teeth erupted only.	
	Age 6.	Age 7.	Age 6.	Age 7.
No permanent teeth erupted ...	32·2	3·9	—	—
Some teeth erupted but none carious	34·6	34·7	51	36
1 tooth carious	11·8	17·4	17	18
2 teeth „	10·0	17·3	15	18
3 „ „	4·4	9.1	7	9
4 „ „	6·9	17·5	10	18
Over 4 „	0	0·2	0	0·3

This table shows that half the permanent teeth erupted (49%) are decayed in the 6 year old child, and 63% in the 7 year old child, while, as would be expected, the number of teeth diseased is much greater for the latter group.

Considerable variations are shown with regard to the percentage prevalence of caries in the different districts, but the figures are not large enough to warrant definite conclusions as to the incidence of caries in different parts of the County. It is however noticeable that the extreme western parts of the County, also Bath and Clutton, show a percentage considerably above the average, especially for the 7 year old children.

It is of importance to know the extent to which the children referred for treatment paid the 6d. required and attended for treatment at the visit of the Dentist. This is shown with some other figures of interest in the following table:—

DISTRICT.	NUMBER OF CHILDREN			PERCENTAGE	
	Inspected.	Referred for Treatment.	Treated.	Requiring Treatment.	Treated. Requiring Treatment.
Axbridge Rural	670	479	217	71·4	45·3
Burnham and Highbridge ...	156	115	55	73·7	47·8
Long Ashton	517	383	170	74·0	44·3
Keynsham	265	192	81	72·4	42·1
Bath Rural	374	306	119	81·8	38·8
Clutton	544	433	162	79·5	37·4
Midsomer Norton and Radstock ...	489	364	164	74·4	45·0
Frome Rural	350	285	92	81·4	32·2
„ Urban	355	317	115	89·2	36·2
Williton Rural	313	277	136	88·4	49·0
Minehead and Watchet ...	147	142	59	96·5	41·5
Dulverton	140	113	50	80·7	44·2
Wellington Rural	257	215	71	83·6	33·0
Bridgwater Rural	153	122	42	79·7	34·4
Totals	4730	3743	1533	79·1	40·9

This table shows that only 40·9% of the parents of children found to have defective teeth cared sufficiently about the matter to pay the 6d. required and send their children for treatment. In these cases there is no question of the parents being in doubt as to whether treatment is required, since each child was previously inspected and a card sent to the parent pointing out that dental treatment was necessary. The percentages varied from 32 per cent. to 48 per cent. The Axbridge District was examined a year later under the same scheme and then only 38 per cent. of those requiring it paid for treatment. 80 per cent. required treatment.

The number of children treated during the year under consideration was 1533. The treatment given was as follows:—

Extractions (Temporary) ...	2162.
,, (Permanent) ...	108.
Fillings	2141.
Other treatment (Scaling) ...	1.

It will be seen that conservative dentistry was aimed at throughout, and no less than 2141 fillings were put in, while only 108 permanent teeth were extracted. Mr. Goddard, the School Dentist, who has worked with great zeal and care, gives great attention to this important matter. In considering the figures this point should be kept in mind, since it is obvious that fillings take up much time and attention.

The cost of the dental work for the year was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Salary of Dentist	300	0	0
Dentist's expenses, cost of conveying apparatus, etc.	101	8	6
Dental materials and renewals	32	12	6
Hire of rooms	23	6	10
Nursing assistance	19	1	6
Assistance other than from District Nurses ...	13	3	6
Stationery, printing, etc.	18	14	9
Postage (estimated)	15	0	0
Clerical assistance (rather over half the time of one clerk)	40	0	0
	£563	7	7

The sums received from fees from parents during the year amounted to £49 8s. 6d.

VERMINOUS CONDITION OF HEADS.

The scheme has been fully described in previous years and no material alterations were made during the year. The results obtained by the nurses are set out in the following tables:—

PRIMARY SCHEME.

DISTRICT.	No. of children inspected.		No. of children excluded.	No. of children whose parents were prosecuted.	Percentage verminous. First inspection.		Percentage verminous. Second inspection.		Percentage excluded.	
	Boys.	Girls.			Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Bath Rural ...	410	346	27	—	9·0	30·0	6·6	24·0	0·9	6·6
Bridgwater Rural	90	76	4	—	2·2	34·2	3·0	27·0	0·0	5·2
Clutton ...	1175	1222	66	14	7·6	29·1	5·3	22·5	0·2	5·1
Midsomer Norton and Radstock	973	911	59	3	4·4	24·5	2·5	21·3	0·3	6·1
Langport Rural	419	479	86	17	23·3	47·8	16·2	44·9	3·3	15·0
Yeovil Rural ...	95	168	49	8	25·2	75·6	31·5	59·0	3·1	27·3
	3162	3202	291	42	9·3	33·3	6·2	26·9	0·8	8·2

RE-EXAMINATION SCHEME.

DISTRICT.	No. of children inspected.		No. of children excluded.	No. of children whose parents were prosecuted.	Percentage* verminous. First inspection.		Percentage* verminous. Second inspection.		Percentage* excluded.	
	Boys.	Girls.			Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Clutton ...	353	581	29	—	7·9	25·3	11·8	46·8	0·8	4·4
Midsomer Norton	95	132	5	4	7·3	19·7	28·6	58·6	2·1	2·2
Keynsham ...	590	565	—	—	5·5	22·1	1·0	9·9	0·0	0·0
Frome Urban ...	701	544	53	7	2·1	30·5	0·3	13·7	0·0	9·7
Frome Rural ...	311	451	36	1	2·8	23·9	0·7	16·5	0·9	7·3
Chard Urban and Crewkerne	819	953	94	—	3·5	29·0	1·1	48·7	0·9	9·0
Chard Rural ...	1050	1259	97	5	9·7	33·3	3·1	39·0	0·4	7·3
Langport Rural	250	357	65	15	15·6	30·0	4·0	39·5	2·4	1·6
Yeovil Rural ...	635	760	110	22	10·8	29·0	15·4	24·4	3·9	11·1
Taunton Rural ...	688	710	46	9	4·2	24·5	2·4	19·2	0·2	6·2
Wellington Urban	542	498	13	3	3·1	13·0	2·3	10·4	0·0	2·6
,, Rural	753	666	31	12	2·0	23·8	18·4	18·7	0·2	4·3
Williton ...	1268	1423	50	5	3·2	13·8	2·2	11·0	0·2	3·3
Shepton Mallet U.	290	277	11	—	1·3	22·3	1·0	15·8	0·0	4·0
,, ,, R.	273	310	20	—	0·7	20·0	0·7	12·4	0·0	0·6
Wincanton ...	347	435	20	—	3·7	19·3	1·4	16·5	0·0	0·4
	8965	10,021	680	83	5·0	23·9	3·1	19·7	0·6	6·1

*This is the percentage found verminous of the children selected for examination, not the percentage of the whole school.

In the Primary Scheme Table the results are shown when the visits of the nurse have only been made after a very long interval from the first visit. All the children are then examined and all again at the second visit. This table shows, therefore, the number of children verminous in the schools which have not been visited by the School Nurses for a long time. The percentage of the girls verminous was 33·3 and 9·3 for the boys, while in the previous year it was 43·8 and 14·1 respectively.

The general result of the work of the nurses has been to show a well-marked improvement in the cleanliness conditions of the children, although some schools are still very bad, while in all cases if the schools are left for long periods they tend to relapse.

Although great leniency has been shown to parents, it has been found necesssary to institute proceedings in a number of cases. 82 parents of 125 children have been prosecuted. In 13 cases convictions were not obtained. Seven of these were adjourned and the children were in the meantime cleansed by the parents. In the remaining cases the 78 parents were fined sums varying from 6d. to 12/6 with, or without, costs.

The percentage of parents prosecuted under the ordinary scheme was 0·48 and 0·26 per cent. under the re-examination scheme.

MENTALLY ABNORMAL CHILDREN.

Dr. Moore, as part of his work, was appointed to make a detailed report as to the mental condition of children which from our records, and from other sources, were suspected to be mentally defective. Dr. Moore started work November 16th, 1914, but as he left for military service March 1st, 1915, very little progress was made with this work. The number of children examined by him was 178. These he grouped as follows according to the prescribed certificates :—

A.	Not incapable of instruction in an ordinary Public Elementary School	78
B.	Feeble-minded but not incapable of instruction in a Special School	78
C.	Incapable of receiving benefit from instruction in an ordinary or a Special School ...	22

Part IV.

INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES IN SCHOOLS, SCHOOL SANITATION, Etc.

During the year 155 schools or departments were closed on account of infectious disease. 113 under Article 45 (*b*) of the Code by the School Medical Officer, and 42 under Article 57 by the Sanitary Authority on the advice of their Medical Officer of Health.

The Schools were closed for the following diseases:—

Whooping Cough	32
Whooping Cough and Measles	3
Whooping Cough and Mumps	2
Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox ...	2
Severe Coughs or Colds and Bad Throats ...	5
Influenza	8
Measles	55
Measles and Scarlet Fever	1
German Measles	3
German Measles and Whooping Cough ...	1
Chicken Pox	9
Chicken Pox and Influenza	1
Mumps	23
Mumps, Whooping Cough and Influenza ...	1
Impetigo	1
Diphtheria	2
Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever	1
Scarlet Fever	5
	155

The cases excluded by the School Medical Officer or his Assistants during the year, and apart from cases excluded under the Verminous Scheme, were 440. Of these, 233 were for ringworm, 78 for verminous condition of head or body, 46 for other skin diseases, while the remainder were for a variety of conditions. In addition, 164 cases of phthisis and 15 of other varieties of tuberculosis were excluded by the County Tuberculosis Officers.

RINGWORM.

Number of Cases.—The number of cases known to the Health Department is shown in the following table:—

Ringworm Cases at end of 1915.

DISTRICT.	No. of Cases.	Percentage of School Population.
Axbridge	32	0·84
Bath Rural	12	0·66
Bridgwater Rural	24	0·91
Chard Rural	4	0·30
Ilminster	5	1·30
Chard Urban	0	—
Clevedon	8	1·10
Clutton	21	0·69
Crewkerne	4	0·61
Dulverton	1	0·15
Frome Rural	3	0·18
Frome Urban	5	0.30
Glastonbury	2	0.35
Keynsham	4	0·35
Langport	12	0·63
Long Ashton	15	0·55
Midsomer Norton	7	0·47
Radstock	5	0·65
Shepton Mallet Rural	3	0·18
Shepton Mallet Urban	1	0·15
Street	2	0·31
Taunton Rural	5	0·25
Wellington Rural	6	0·56
Wellington Urban	0	—
Wells City	4	0·57
Wells Rural	7	0·52
Weston-super-Mare	39	1·76
Williton	8	0·35
Wincanton	9	0·41
Yeovil Rural	7	0·30
Totals	255	0·55

At the end of 1914 and also at the end of 1913 the number was 224, at the end of 1912 it was 208, and at the end of 1911 the number of cases was 323. A considerable number of cases are detected through the work of the school nurses. Much attention is paid to following up the cases, but this work has been considerably interfered with owing to the diminished staff available. A small number of cases have been actively treated by drugs by one of the School Medical Inspectors.

There were no known cases in 386 schools, one case in 48 schools, two cases in 29 schools, three in 11, four in 10, five in 4, six in 1 and seven or more cases in 4 schools. The 9 schools with five or more cases are Peasedown (5 cases), Cameley (5), Ilminster C.E. (5), Clevedon Und. (5), Burnham C.E. (6), Curry Rivel (7), East Huntspill (8), Weston-super-Mare Locking Road (13), and Weston-super-Mare Central (22).

The average duration of the cases of ringworm continues to be high, and for 1915 is higher than in previous years, being 10·43 months for the cured and 12·5 as the average present duration of cases still uncured. The increase is in part apparent and due to lack of staff to ascertain if certain cases are really cured or not.

District Nurses under the arrangements made by the County Education Committee assisted in the treatment of 68 cases.

Attendance of Cases at School under Special Conditions.

The Scheme whereby children suffering from ringworm may attend school under certain special conditions has been explained in earlier reports. It was further extended during the year, and in September, 1915, was extended to the whole County.

The following table classifies the known ringworm cases at the end of the year according to whether attending school under the scheme or not, and if not, the reason for non-attendance.

Attending under the scheme, as far as is known ...			152
Excluded :	Refused scheme	37	
,,	Suffering from extensive ringworm, or on parts not covered by cap ...	16	
,,	Other illness	11	
,,	Age under 5	21	
,,	Teacher unwilling to undertake scheme (10 Teachers).	18	
,,	Total		103
			255

During the year 20 cases of ringworm were treated by X-Rays by Dr. Howard, of Frome. Of these, 17 have been cured and are now back at school (February 1st, 1916), while several of the others are nearly cured. For the present the treatment of further cases by X-Rays has been discontinued.

LABORATORY.

During the year 5243 samples and specimens were examined in the County Laboratory. The greater number were in connection with Public Health work. 2255 suspected Diphtheria swabs were examined, the majority being from children of school age. 1575 specimens of hairs and stumps from suspected ringworm cases were examined: of these, 923 showed the ringworm fungus, while the remaining 652 were negative. Of these 1575 specimens, 1531 were taken by the School Medical Inspectors or the School Nurses, and 24 were examined for private practitioners.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE SCHOOLS.

During the year 5 reports were sent on to the Education Secretary dealing with more or less serious sanitary defects in schools. By the end of the year the defects had been remedied in three cases, the remaining two had been referred to the Managers and I do not know if the conditions have been put right.

TABLE I.

TOTAL 1915 INSPECTIONS. SEPARATE DISTRICTS.

	Elder Children, (12 & over.)		8—9.		Infants. (under 7.)		Children specially presented.				Total.	Approximate Number Children in Average Attendance.	Percentage of Average Attendance Inspected.	Per cent. Routine Inspected 1915.	Medical Inspector.
							(7-8 & 9—11$\frac{11}{12}$		Re-inspections.						
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.					
Axbridge ...	253	260	197	291	292	297	74	75	623	609	2971	6027	49·2	26·3	Dr. Parker.
Bath ..	151	155	62	75	165	159	24	22	98	96	1007	1806	55·7	42·4	Dr. Bendle, Dr. Boreham, Dr. Carter.
Bridgwater ...	48	51	82	79	81	91	28	21	151	134	766	2627	29·1	16·4	Dr. Stansfield. Dr. Parker.
Chard ...	93	97	102	86	110	112	37	43	112	92	884	3334	26·5	18·0	Dr. Stansfield, Dr. Carter.
Clutton ...	225	203	155	202	251	256	45	64	193	208	1802	5243	34·3	24·6	Dr. Pollard.
Dulverton ...	7	12	13	11	21	18	3	8	18	13	124	642	19·3	12·7	Dr. Parker.
Frome ...	167	142	125	111	171	167	35	48	161	135	1262	3266	38·6	27·0	Dr. Howard.
Keynsham ...	4	26	5	4	13	13	2	1	9	3	80	1250	6·4	5·2	Dr. Heaven.
Langport ...	78	77	48	34	75	84	22	18	72	108	616	1899	32·4	20·8	Dr. Carter.
Long Ashton ...	98	110	121	124	179	193	52	65	221	252	1415	3436	41·1	24·0	Dr. Parker, Dr. Bendle, Dr. Boreham.
Shepton Mallet	114	103	82	106	100	102	22	27	47	61	764	2202	34·6	27·5	Dr. Carter.
Taunton ...	71	79	63	57	105	90	25	29	52	60	631	1982	31·8	23·4	Dr. Stansfield, Dr. Carter.
Wellingon ...	98	49	84	36	68	76	21	24	51	37	544	2050	26·5	20·0	Dr. Stansfield, Dr. Carter.
Wells ...	152	138	165	156	206	189	44	37	213	182	1482	3268	45·3	30·7	Dr. Carter.
Williton ...	15	31	33	33	51	47	26	22	93	87	438	2266	19·3	9·2	Dr. Stansfield, Dr. Parker.
Wincanton ...	86	86	82	65	149	112	37	27	86	79	809	2170	37·2	26·7	Dr. Carter.
Yeovil ...	73	81	80	93	116	133	40	49	77	53	795	2267	35·0	25·4	Dr. Carter.
Totals	1733	1700	1499	1563	2153	2139	537	580	2277	2209	16390	45785	35·7	23·5	

TABLE II.

RETURN SHOWING THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF CHILDREN INSPECTED.

CONDITION.		Entrants 3—7 years.			Age 8.			Age 12 and over.			Total Routine Cases.			Special Cases.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Total Inspected	...	2153	2139	4292	1499	1563	3062	1733	1700	3433	5385	5402	10787	537	580	1117
CLOTHING ...	Satisfactory ...	2048	2068	4116	1431	1505	2936	1646	1637	3283	5125	5210	10335	283	327	610
	Unsatisfactory ...	105	71	176	68	58	126	87	63	150	260	192	452	6	15	21
FOOTGEAR ...	Satisfactory ...	2045	2077	4122	1446	1503	2949	1676	1646	3322	5167	5226	10393	282	323	605
	Unsatisfactory ...	107	62	169	53	60	113	56	52	108	216	174	390	10	15	25
CLEANLINESS OF HEAD	Clean ...	2049	1832	3881	1442	1264	2706	1697	1357	3054	5188	4453	9641	275	262	537
	Nits only ...	97	297	394	51	295	346	35	339	374	183	931	1114	17	72	89
	Pediculi ...	7	10	17	6	4	10	1	4	5	14	18	32	1	2	3
CLEANLINESS OF BODY	Clean ...	1736	1777	3513	1220	1295	2515	1453	1417	2870	4409	4489	8898	241	266	507
	Dirty ...	414	358	772	275	262	537	276	280	556	965	900	1865	52	71	123
	Flea Bitten ...	169	147	316	123	131	254	74	110	184	366	388	754	22	34	56
	Pediculi present ...	4	5	9	1	3	4	2	6	8	7	14	21	...	1	1
NUTRITION ...	Good ...	367	421	788	229	259	488	334	387	721	930	1067	1997	35	49	84
	Normal ...	1474	1448	2922	1034	1061	2095	1183	1136	2319	3691	3645	7336	206	224	430
	Below normal ...	306	265	571	225	235	460	202	169	371	733	669	1402	49	57	106
	Bad ...	1	2	3	5	3	8	2	1	3	8	6	14	1	...	1
	Not recorded ...	5	3	8	6	5	11	12	7	19	23	15	38	...	...	
TONSILS ...	Slightly enlarged ...	364	329	693	237	237	474	260	250	510	861	816	1677	58	64	122
	Considerably enlarged ...	75	60	135	46	45	91	59	59	118	180	164	344	16	17	33
	Urgently requiring removal ...	1	2	3	2	2	4	1	6	7	4	10	14	2	...	2
ADENOIDS ...	Sl. nasal obst. prob. due to Adenoids	241	191	432	162	136	298	123	97	220	526	424	950	48	40	88
	Severe ...	37	34	71	25	20	45	29	7	36	91	61	152	15	12	27
VISION ...	Both eyes good ...	...	...	...	912	870	1782	1260	1112	2372	2172	1982	4154	166	167	333
	One eye good ... One eye slightly defective	...	...	...	154	166	320	180	197	377	334	363	697	26	38	64
	Both eyes slightly defective ...	...	...	...	286	369	655	199	241	440	485	610	1095	72	86	158
	One eye good ... One eye very defective	...	...	...	18	27	45	24	28	52	42	55	97	9	3	12
	One eye slightly defective One eye very defective	...	...	...	40	54	94	30	56	86	70	110	180	11	15	26
	Both eyes very defective ...	...	...	...	30	27	57	26	57	83	56	84	140	12	28	40
	Not recorded ...	...	...	...	59	50	109	14	9	23	73	59	132	9	9	18
SQUINT	...	41	47	88	30	34	64	20	15	35	91	96	187	17	14	31
EXTERNAL EYE DISEASE	...	36	25	61	32	29	61	40	43	83	108	97	205	30	42	72
EAR DISCHARGE	Present ...	15	15	30	9	4	13	5	10	15	29	29	58	6	7	13
	Recent ...	17	27	44	17	17	34	8	9	17	42	53	95	8	14	22
	Past ...	16	18	34	25	41	66	51	53	104	92	112	204	4	7	11
HEARING ...	Normal Hearing ...	...	...	...	1397	1464	2861	1657	1622	3279	3054	3086	6140	257	292	549
	Defective (slight) ...	13	18	31	61	50	111	55	60	115	129	128	257	19	12	31
	Defective (marked) ...	7	4	11	9	8	17	7	9	16	23	21	44	9	7	16

TABLE II.—*(continued).*

RETURN SHOWING THE PHYSICAL CONDITION OF CHILDREN INSPECTED.

CONDITION.		Entrants 3—7 years.			Age 8.			Age 12 and over.			Total Routine Cases.			Special Cases.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
TEETH ...	Sound	658	674	1332	203	204	407	411	377	788	1272	1255	2527	43	48	91
	Less than 4 decayed ...	725	748	1473	604	602	1206	900	946	1846	2229	2296	4525	125	144	269
	4 or more decayed ...	770	717	1487	692	757	1449	422	377	799	1884	1851	3735	126	138	264
	Sepsis	6	5	11	5	8	13	...	...	...	11	13	24	...	...	...
GLANDS ...	Slightly enlarged	449	324	773	303	243	546	293	219	512	1045	786	1831	57	66	123
	Considerably enlarged ...	16	8	24	15	5	20	12	6	18	43	19	62	8	1	9
HEART AND CIRCULATION	Organic Disease	4	4	8	6	10	16	8	16	24	18	30	48	5	4	9
	Functional Disease ...	1	...	1	..	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	5	...	1	1
	Suspected Heart Disease ...	1	...	1	...	3	3	3	4	7	4	7	11	3	1	4
	Anæmia	133	143	276	110	152	262	97	189	286	340	484	824	44	83	127
	Other Defects	13	13	26	11	14	25	18	19	37	42	46	88	9	10	19
LUNGS ...	Tuberculosis	2	1	3	4	3	7	2	3	5	8	7	15	4	7	11
	Possible Tuberculosis ...	25	27	52	22	19	41	22	15	37	69	61	130	34	44	78
	Bronchitis	98	86	184	18	22	40	6	4	10	122	112	234	14	8	22
	Other disease	16	11	27	12	5	17	11	14	25	39	30	69	9	3	12
NERVOUS SYSTEM	Epilepsy	1	...	1	2	...	2	3	5	8	6	5	11	3	5	8
	Chorea	1	1	2	2	1	3	...	2	2	3	4	7	2	4	6
	Over Excitability ...	...	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	4	6	...	3	3
	Paralysis	4	1	5	4	6	10	4	2	6	12	9	21	2	1	3
	Nervous Debility ...	12	14	26	8	11	19	16	18	34	36	43	79	10	13	23
	Other Disease	1	7	8	4	5	9	3	5	8	8	17	25	8	6	14
SKIN ...	Impetigo	27	13	40	11	5	16	5	1	6	43	19	62	13	17	30
	Scabies	1	...	1	2	...	2	...	2	2	3	2	5	2	4	6
	Ringworm (Head) ...	25	23	48	6	16	22	8	6	14	39	45	84	56	55	111
	Ringworm (Body) ...	3	4	7	4	4	8	1	1	2	8	9	17	7	3	10
	Other disease	41	31	72	21	19	40	15	11	26	77	61	138	16	19	35
RICKETS		54	38	92	22	11	33	23	9	32	99	58	157	8	7	15
RUPTURE		8	5	13	7	2	9	5	1	6	20	8	28	4	3	7
DEFORMITIES		22	13	35	18	12	30	22	29	51	62	54	116	10	11	21
TUBERCULOSIS (non-pulmonary)																
Glandular		2	1	3	1	...	1	1	2	3	4	3	7	1	1	2
Bones and Joints		4	1	5	3	4	7	3	9	12	10	14	24	3	12	15
Other Forms		13	16	29	6	8	14	6	18	24	25	42	67	6	7	13
DEFECTIVE SPEECH		12	1	13	8	4	12	19	4	23	39	9	48	6	1	7
MENTAL CONDITION																
Normal		883	852	1735	1329	1445	2774	1546	1558	3104	3758	3855	7613	245	276	521
Dull and backward		77	48	125	150	96	246	172	130	302	399	274	673	30	34	64
Mentally defective		8	2	10	7	6	13	14	8	22	29	16	45	5	9	14
GOITRE		4	5	9	13	13	26	17	53	70	34	71	105	1	13	14
LATERAL CURVATURE		...	1	1	2	1	3	2	14	16	4	16	20	2	3	5
GENERALLY NEGLECTED		7	5	12	1	2	3	5	1	6	13	8	21	5	1	6
OTHER CONDITIONS		417	333	750	244	167	411	222	161	383	883	661	1544	103	74	177

TABLE III.

PERCENTAGE PREVALENCE OF SOME OF THE MOST PREVALENT DEFECTS.—ROUTINE INSPECTIONS.

CONDITION.		Entrants.			Age 8.			Age 12 and over.			All routine cases.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
CLEANLINESS OF HEAD	Clean (*i.e.*, no nits or lice)	95	86	91	97	81	89	98	80	89	96	82	90
	Nits only ...	5	14	9	3	19	11	2	20	11	4	18	10
	Pediculi ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CLEANLINESS OF BODY	Clean	81	83	82	82	83	82	84	84	84	82	83	83
	Dirty	19	17	18	18	17	18	16	16	16	18	17	17
	Pediculi ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NUTRITION ...	Good	17	20	18	15	17	16	19	23	21	17	20	19
	Normal	69	68	69	70	68	69	69	67	68	69	68	68
	Below Normal ...	14	12	13	15	15	15	12	10	11	14	12	13
	Bad	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TONSILS ...	Slightly enlarged ...	17	15	16	16	15	15	15	15	15	16	15	15
	Considerably enlarged	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Urgently requiring removal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ADENOIDS ...	Slight obstruction ...	11	9	10	11	7	10	7	6	6	8	8	9
	Severe	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	0	1	2	1	1
SQUINT ...	... ...	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2
EXTERNAL EYE DISEASE	...	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2
VISION ...	Both eyes good ...	...	...	...	63	57	60	73	66	70	69	62	65
	One eye good One eye slightly defective	...	...	...	11	11	11	10	12	11	11	11	11
	Both eyes slightly defective	...	...	...	20	24	22	12	14	13	15	19	17
	One eye good One eye very defective	...	...	...	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2
	One eye slightly defective One eye very defective	...	...	...	3	4	3	2	3	2	2	3	3
	Both eyes very defective ...	...	...	...	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2
EAR DISCHARGE	Present or recent ...	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1
	Past	1	1	1	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	2
HEARING ...	Normal	...	...	...	95	96	95	97	96	97	95	95	95
	Defective (slight) ...	...	...	...	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	4
	Defective (marked) ...	...	...	...	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
TEETH ...	Sound	31	32	31	14	13	13	24	22	23	24	23	23
DEFORMITIES	... ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
RICKETS ...	... ...	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
DEFECTIVE SPEECH	... ...	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0